



2015 Annual General Meeting Minutes

2:00pm Wednesday, 23rd May 2015

Held at the Charles Hawker Conference Centre, Waite Institute

Welcome: Meeting opened at 2:05pm by Peter Clements

Attendees: Alister Smith, Amanda Camp, Ani Walker, Barb Endersby, Barbara Bray, David Hansman, Gary Taylor, Glen Taylor, Graham Nye, Jean Briggs, John Endersby, Karen Collins, Keith Seeary, Kerrie Davies, Kevin Stead, Lesley Smith, Liz Cousins, Lucy Gilchrist, Mark Walker, Mia Smith, Michael Metz, Naomi Smith, Penny Harper, Peter Clements, Peter Jones, Ray Wallis, Simon Seeary, Stan Briggs, Wendy Clements, and Yoko Kishimoto
Guests: Dr Mark Lethbridge

Apologies: Barbara Hardy, Brenton Hann, Jessica Strauss, Jill Millhouse, Margaret Taylor, Narelle Taylor, Silvija Wallis, Suzanne Zhao, and Vince Wang.

Proxies: Barbara Hardy - Chair, Jessica Strauss – Karen, Jill Millhouse, Margaret Taylor, Narelle Taylor, Silvija Wallis, Suzanne Zhao, and Vince Wang.

Apology: I, Karen Collins, as secretary responsible for taking the minutes of this Annual General Meeting would like to profoundly apologise for the fact that the notes taken during the meeting were lost due to a computer problem on the day. These minutes are, therefore, a record of events from memory and with input from those who attended.

BUSINESS

1. Minutes

1.1. Motion to adopt the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 21st May 2014.
Moved – Ray; seconded – Barbara Bray; motion carried.

1.2. Motion to adopt the Minutes of the Special General Meeting of 11th June 2014.
Moved – Karen; seconded; motion carried.

2. President's Report – Peter Clements (see Annex A)

Motion that we accept the President's Report.
Moved – Ray; seconded; motion carried.

3. Financial Report – Barb Endersby

3.1. A summary of the Society's major financial events and Auditor's Report for 2014.

3.2. Questions

3.2.1. Are there separate bank accounts for handling tax deductible donations?
Yes. More will be set up as required.

3.2.2. Are all donations to be only used for the purchase of land?

No, unless the donation has been given with that request, all donations are treated as donations for general use as decided by the Committee. A space is provided for this request on the Membership/Donation form. Advice on these

and other issues was received from the Nature Foundation SA Treasurer, Georgie Fiedler.

3.3. Motion that the Auditor's Report for the year ending 31 December 2014 be accepted.

Moved – Barb Endersby; seconded – Alister; motion carried.

4. Appointment of Auditor for 2015

4.1. Motion to appoint Bruce Evans as the Society's Auditor for the 2015 financial year.

Moved – Barb Endersby; seconded; motion carried.

5. Election of Management Committee Members

5.1. Peter Clements turned meeting over to Ray Wallis to conduct elections.

5.2. Nine persons nominated for election to the ten positions on the Management Committee as follows:

- Alister Smith
- Barb Endersby
- Gary Taylor
- Glen Taylor
- Graham Nye
- Jess Strauss
- Karen Collins
- Peter Clements
- Peter Jones

5.3. Because there are fewer nominations than positions, motion to vote to accept all nominations by a show of hands.

Moved – Ray; seconded; motion carried.

6. Announcements

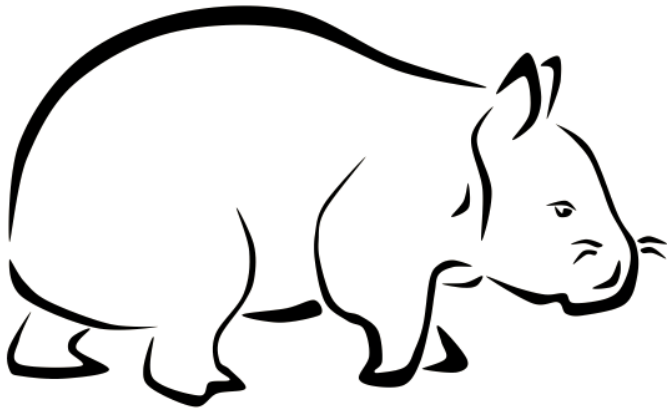
6.1. Negotiations are under way with Amanda Forbes McKinnon and David Guillau, of Adelaide Private Tours (www.adelaideprivatetours.com.au), to allow them access to Moorunde as part of their tours with small buses of no more than six guests. The tours could provide an opportunity to gain greater exposure for our reserves/work, the wombats, new members and a greater awareness in the community.

6.2. Marketing developments:

6.2.1. The name "Wombats SA" has been registered. We will continue to be "The Natural History Society of South Australia Incorporated", but we will be trading as "Wombats SA" especially in marketing efforts. This is hoped to reduce the confusion that arises from using "Natural History Society", make it shorter/punchier and to draw attention to one of our main efforts as we move into the future.

6.2.2. The domain name "wombatssa.org.au" has been secured and a new internet presence will be established.

6.2.3. Alister Smith has designed a wombat design to go with Wombats SA:



6.2.4. Motion that “WombatsSA” and that the wombat design be adopted as a trading name and logo for the Natural History Society of SA Inc.
Moved – Ray; seconded; motion carried.

7. Meeting Closure

8. Guest presentation by Dr Mark Lethbridge – “The relationship between wombat health and vegetation composition at Brookfield and Moorunde”

Signed: _____ Date _____

Signed: _____ Date _____

President's Report 2015

Natural History Society



of South Australia Inc

In October 2014, I had a meeting with Senator Simon Birmingham at which we received the welcome news that our application for inclusion on the Register of Environmental Organisations (REO) had been successful. This meant that we would at last be able to

receive tax deductible donations. In response, in early 2015 we received around \$15,000 in donations for which we thank our supportive members. This will help put us on a better financial footing for the year. However, it is of concern that there is currently an Inquiry into the REO by federal parliament to which I have sent a submission on behalf of the Society. I have also presented a submission earlier this year to the SA Parliament's Inquiry into biodiversity on behalf of the Society.

In order to properly manage the Society's money, we have created a new Finance Committee consisting of Peter Clements, Mike Brindley, Barb Endersby and Glen Taylor. The Committee will develop policies to help us decide how much money we can spend on capital items while recognising that we need an annual amount as we are not fully covered by subscriptions to run the society.

The Society has some ongoing challenges in managing and trying to restore grasses for the wombats on Moorunde. Ever since we received the results of a study done by Amanda Camp at Adelaide University into the DNA coding of plant material in wombat scats, we have been acutely aware of the lack of native grasses on Moorunde and that subsequently wombats are forced to eat mostly weeds. Amanda's work is continuing with similar studies over a different seasonal period to complement her first study. Our main activities in the past twelve months have been directed towards trying to find ways to re-establish those native grasses. Replanting and similar projects are ongoing and we now have involvement from Elisa Sparrow of DEWNR who has a project on both Moorunde and Brookfield to establish grasses in different terrains. John Endersby has a number of small re-vegetation trials ongoing on Moorunde as well.

Part of our concern is that kangaroos have become the main grazing competitor for wombats and we are exploring ways to discourage their numbers on Moorunde. Shutting off the water points a few years ago had some effect but we need to do more.

I wish to thank the following committee members for their valuable contributions over the last twelve months. Karen Collins has done an excellent job as secretary and has kept the

committee informed of many related environmental issues and items to be dealt with. I thank her for making my tasks a whole lot easier. Although she hopes to remain on the Management Committee, Karen will take a break from secretarial duties this coming twelve months so we will need to find a replacement for this important Society role. Karen also keeps us active in the social world with lively updates to our Facebook page which now has over 500 “Likes” or followers.

Barb Endersby, our treasurer, has done an excellent job of keeping the books under control and keeping the Society compliant. Unless someone has done this role, they may not fully realise how important it is to be done properly and we are fortunate to have Barb’s professionalism.

Glen Taylor continues to put us all to shame with his energy in being head ranger, Journal editor, marking the tracks in Moorunde with identifying numbers as well as wombat warrens, conducting surveys and making maps as well as the huge task associated with ranger rostering.

Graham Nye has had a valuable moderating influence on the committee and has done a great job recently of writing up documents for land management issues.

Peter Jones has made a weed boom spray unit and he has been using it successfully on Moorunde.

Land Management Working Group members – Graham Nye, John Endersby, Jess Strauss, Gary Taylor, and Peter Clements – are looking into how and where we restore native grasses by putting into practice some of the techniques that have been trialled. We would like to make a special thank you to John for his continuing development of ideas put forward to the Working Group and Committee and his energy in putting them into practice when they have been approved. Some of his work has been published on the website as “Words from Whistling Jack”.

The Latifrons Shed is nearing completion thanks to John Endersby also with help from many of us. Roy Langford has put in the electrical wiring and lighting for the shed for which we thank him. This will enable us to have meetings at night there and for research people to use it as a base.

Although John started the year as member of the Management Committee, he retired to concentrate his efforts on the Land Management plan and his surveys. He has been assisted in these by Graham Nye and Alister Smith. The Committee used its power to co-opt Vince

Guangsong Wang as an additional member in mid-year. We have been grateful to have Vince's input and value his IT expertise.

Al Smith manages the website and email updates for members who wish to receive them. (Please let us know if you would like to be added to this list.) Al produced our beautiful 2015 calendar which was a great success with all photographs donated by members of scenes taken on our reserves. We have plans to do another one for 2016. He has organised and installed fantastic new signs on Moorunde entrances that give a wonderful welcome to visitors and information about the reserve as well as a number of beautifully done and informative brochures.

The Nature Trail upgrade is being progressed by Peter and Al with a hoped-for funds injection in an application to Friends of Native Bushland. An application for funds is also being prepared for the Bank SA charitable scheme.

John Endersby and Graham Nye carried out their on-going Moorunde Bird Survey. We were all delighted when there was a mallee fowl sighting last year on Moorunde. John and Graham also write the articles for "Bird Nerds Post" which is published on the website.

Cullen Reserve working bees are twice a year with attendance varying from just two attendees in October to nine of us at Easter. Removal of *polygala* and *rhamnus* remain our major tasks but a lot of fun is had by all who attend.

Alister Smith designed and built solar-powered battery units to power the additional motion sensor cameras that we have monitoring wombats and other animals on Moorunde. We desperately need someone who can take on the task of swapping the memory cards about once a month and someone who can go through the resulting images to analyse and catalogue events seen in them that will have a bearing on our efforts to manage the reserves.

Alistair has been assisted at times by Vince Wang whose situation means he can no longer contribute to the committee. We thank him for his contributions to the Committee. Jess Strauss has made valuable input into keeping us alerted to grants that are available and in her scientific endeavours on Moorunde and Brookfield.

We thank all the volunteer rangers who make the reserves safe by checking for fence breaches and read the rain gauges. We would especially like to thank Brenton and Alex Hann and their work in monitoring the goat population and other feral pests.

We would also like to thank the Cadell prisoners who have taken on a number of jobs, organised for them by John Endersby, such as removal of internal fences and widening of some of the tracks.

Outreach

This year I gave a talk to the Australian Plant Society at their AGM and I am scheduled to give one to the Willunga Trees for Life group later this year. This activity nets us a few new members each time so if members know of groups wanting a speaker please let us know.

We took part in our first Bushcare's Major Day Out during our Visitors & Volunteers Days weekend in September. BMDO is a national day designed to encourage us all to take part in the restoration and maintenance of our remaining bushland. We are grateful for the sponsorship by Willoughby City Council and Landcare Australia.

The Ngaut Ngaut Conservation Park trip that Al Smith organised was an interesting day out enjoyed by all who attended. We found it a valuable opportunity to meet with Isobel Campbell and other representatives of the Mannum Aboriginal Community Association Inc. We hope to host a return visit from them to Moorunde in the near future and to strengthening the relationship between our two groups.

You will have read about the Wombat Alliance meeting at Murray Bridge which was reported on in the journal, *Natural History*. This very useful meeting of 25 people and groups interested in the welfare of wombats was organised by Sarah Lance at DEWNR.

Staff of the Yookamurra Sanctuary (part of the Australian Wildlife Conservancy) conducted the "Cost-effective Fox & Rabbit Control Workshop" which was attended by John Endersby and Al Smith. They also hosted a Yookamurra Open Day which was attended by a number of our members. We look forward to more cooperation with them in the year ahead.

There has been a continuing cooperation with Brookfield and with Conservation Volunteers some of whom came to Moorunde this year to help with weeding. This is going to continue thanks to cooperation through Trish Curtis, head of Conservation Volunteers SA.

Visitors to Moorunde: There have been many, including other like-minded individuals and groups and the scientists upon whose research results we depend to make informed decisions about the management issues on the reserves.

And a special thank you to my wonderful wife and daughter who have to put up with me.

Peter Clements

President, Natural History Society of SA Inc